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The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/55/L.42, entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development" (A/C.5/55/27). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraphs 8 to 10 of document A/C.5/55/27, the Secretary-General requests the continuation in 2001 of provisions for a political affairs officer post (at the P-4 level) and one General Service post to continue to provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General in post-conflict peace-building in Central America. The political affairs officer would continue to monitor the Guatemala peace process, providing support to the activities of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and to the verification and good offices functions carried out by United Nations Headquarters, in respect of the peace-building process in El Salvador. The estimated costs related to the salaries and common staff costs of these two posts amount to $191,800.

3. As indicated in paragraph 11 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, in its resolution 54/250 A, the General Assembly had approved the amount of $90,387,200 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The utilization of the provision for political missions amounts to

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$66,074,600 and an unallocated balance of $24,312,600 remains against the approved amount of $90,387,200. The Advisory Committee notes that, should the Assembly approve charges of $17,069,400, relating to actions taken by the Security Council regarding good offices, preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building missions, as reported in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/55/645) and the charge of $7,243,200 representing partial requirements for MINUGUA in 2001 (see A/C.5/55/24, para. 16), the provision of $90,387,200 for special political missions would be fully utilized.

4. Under the circumstances, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/55/L.42, the Advisory Committee recommends that an additional appropriation of $191,800 be approved under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.